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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

J. BELL, PRINTER, THIRSK.

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THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1951. Again there is no item of Public Health outstanding to require special comment or to be the subject of a special report. The wider scope of Public Health work under the National Health Service is of undoubted benefit to the Community. Particularly is this true of Laboratory facilities and Ambulance Services. The almost complete absence of notification of any serious infectious disease is outstanding as you will see later in the Statistics. There was no case of diphtheria during the year a condition not to continue, as there has been a most unfortunate falling off of cases immunised. I again record my appreciation of the great help I have received from the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector and the other members of the Council's staff.

Public Health Staff.

Clerk	...	W. A. Wilkinson
Sanitary Inspector	...	F. Metcalfe
Additional Sanitary Inspector		R. M. Sharphouse
Medical Officer of Health (Part time)		W. G. MacArthur

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	71,544
Estimated residential population (Civilians)		
	(R.G.'s figures)	13,700
Number of inhabited houses	...	3,839
Rateable Value	...	£70,654
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£275

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births—	206	106	100	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	201	105	96	1,000 of the
Illegitimate	5	1	4	population 15.03
Still Births—	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	3	1	2	of all births
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	14.56
Deaths	176	92	84	Death Rate per
				1,000 of the
				population 12.84

Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	5	3	2
Legitimate	...	2	2
Illegitimate	...	1	Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	5	3	2
Legitimate	...	2	2
Illegitimate	...	1	Nil

Death Rate all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	24.27
Death Rate Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.4
Death Rate Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	
(R.G.'s list Headings 10-14)	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 8)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 5)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) (Heading 27)	Nil

The death rate of infants per 1,000 births gives a very inaccurate picture on account of the small number of births. Particularly is this so with regard to the deaths of Illegitimate children.

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.
See above.

2. (a) Laboratory Work.

An excellently equipped Laboratory at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, provides the Area with a quick and willing service. The same is true of the York County Hospital which is less used on account of being further away.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of these is no longer the duty of the Local Authority.

(c) Nursing in the home.

Provision of Nursing in the home and of home help is under the control of the County Medical Officer.

Sections C, D and E are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in this Report.

I would, however, mention here that there was no case of food poisoning notified during the year.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases.

Very few cases of Infectious Disease occurred during the Year, in all 20, as follows: 2 cases of Scarlet Fever; 1 of Puerperal Pyrexia; 7 of Measles; and 10 of Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria. No case notified.

Scarlet Fever. 2 cases of a mild type were notified. One case was isolated at home, the other in Hospital.

Measles. Seven cases were notified from different parts of the district.

Whooping Cough. Ten cases were notified mostly from Topcliffe and Kilburn Areas.

Pneumonia. No notification of Pneumonia was received.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	2	1	Nil
Measles	7	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	10	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrena	1	Nil	Nil

<i>Age</i>	<i>Disease Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Disease Puerperal Pyrena</i>	<i>Disease Measles</i>	<i>Disease Whooping Cough</i>
1-2	-	-	1	1
2-3	-	-	2	3
3-4	-	-	-	-
4-5	-	-	1	2
5-10	-	-	1	3
10-15	2	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	1	1
25-45	-	1	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-
Total	2	1	7	10

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.
 (b) Tuberculosis.

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
3-4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25-45	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
45-65	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & over	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis is not quite the same as is shown in the Register-General's table. On examining the tables I find this is due to the fact that in one case the cause of death was given as due to Hemiplegia in a Tuberculosis person.

Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District in 1951.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	5	3
2. Tuberculosis (other)	1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm (stomach)	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchas	3	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	7
13. Malignant Neoplasm Arteries	-	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	5
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	12
18. Coronary Disease Angina	12	1
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
20. Other Heart Disease	26	25
21. Other Circulatory Disease	5	3
22. Influenza	1	2
23. Pneumonia	3	-
24. Bronchitis	4	7
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	-
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	2	4
31. Congenital Malformation	1	-
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	9	7
34. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	3
35. Suicide	1	-
	—	—
	92	84
	—	—

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Year 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1951.

Mr. Sharphouse has, as your Housing Inspector, assisted in the compilation of this Report.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Thirsk District Water Company supply much of the Area with piped water either direct, or in some cases the Council purchase bulk supplies and maintain the water mains.

There has been no complaint as to the quality of this water, but the supply is inadequate in some areas for both domestic and farm use particularly on the higher ground.

Council's Supplies.

The Council supply 18 villages with piped water derived from springs or bore-holes.

Towards the latter part of the year, it was found on bacteriological examination that these waters were unsatisfactory in quality.

Householders were warned to boil all water as a precautionary matter pending improvements. Emergency chlorination was resorted to and other steps taken to effect an improvement, such as washing out and chlorination of water mains.

The quantity of these supplies do not at times meet all demands and is a matter that is under consideration by the Council and the Thirsk District Water Company to try and get unification of Water Supplies over the whole area.

In December a Ministry of Health Public Inquiry was held in order to get a decision on this matter.

Bacteriological Examinations of Public Supplies.

<i>Name of Supply</i>	<i>Derived from Springs</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Sutton	Springs	12	8	2	2
Kirby Hill	Bore	6	1	2	3
Knayton	Springs	6	2	1	3
Kilburn	Springs	6	4	2	-
Pickhill	Bore	1	-	-	1

The contamination of the Spring Waters was believed due to heavy rain and afforestation taking place in the vicinity.

Particulars of Parishes as to supply of Water from public water mains.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Popn.</i>	<i>No. of dwelling houses.</i>	<i>No. of Popn. Supplied From Mains.</i>	<i>Stand Pipes.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Ainderby					
Quernhow	79	17	-	-	Pickhill Extension
Bagby	215	67	156	36	Sutton Reservoir extension
Balk	69	14	55	-	do.
*Boltby	179	52	-	-	
Cowesby	65	23	-	-	Private Supply
*Carlton Miniott	621	160	548	60	
*Catton	86	21	-	-	
*Dalton	259	71	156	54	
Ellenthorpe	61	12	-	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Eldmire	54	10	45	-	
Fawdington	24	4	24	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Felixkirk	102	21	70	-	
Holme	42	15	33	9	Pickhill extension
Hood Grange	10	1	-	-	Private Supply
Howe	40	12	-	-	do.
Hutton Sessay	94	23	92	-	Sutton extension
Humberton	69	14	-	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Kewick	146	35	140	-	
Kilburn	291	78	171	44	Springs & Reser.

*Kirby Wiske	188	47	160	24	
Knayton	277	76	189	9	Springs & Reser.
Kirby Hill	155	31	85	50	Bore-hole Supply
*Kirby Knowle	110	23	110	-	
Langthorpe	338	115	297	24	Kirby Hill bore
*Maunby	169	45	112	-	
Milby	70	23	39	-	Kirby Hill ext.
*Newby Wiske	167	49	96	24	
*Newsham	189	37	35	25	
*N. Kilvington	81	10	24	-	
*Norton-le-Clay	51	23	-	-	
Pickhill	291	80	171	42	Bore-hole Supply
*Sandhutton	267	63	176	60	
*Sessay	260	69	244	20	
Sinderby	97	33	36	12	Pickhill extension
*S. Otterington	289	90	162	54	
*Sowerby	2445	816	2205	214	
*S. Kilvington	253	70	180	-	
*Skipton Bridge	93	26	-	-	
Sutton	241	86	174	30	Springs & Reser.
Thirkleby	246	58	196	-	Sutton Mains ext.
Thirlby	102	24	50	-	Private Supply
*Thirsk	2335	811	1525	575	
*Thornbrough	16	3	2	-	
Thornton Brid.	73	12	-	-	Kirby Hill mains
*Thornton-le-Moor	248	86	219	24	
*Thornton-le-Street	132	32	76	-	
*Topcliffe	530	125	448	32	
Upsall	104	25	-	-	Private Supply
*Parishes supplied direct by the Thirsk District Water Company.					

In the case of Dalton, Topcliffe, Sessay and Eldmire, water is purchased in bulk from the Thirsk District Water Company and distributed through mains belonging to and maintained by the Council.

Sewerage.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were

carried out during the year, but the Scheme for Thirsk and Sowerby was sanctioned and tenders obtained for the carrying out of same. Owing, however, to the National economic position, the starting date was withheld and at the close of the year, the Scheme was still in abeyance.

Schemes for the principal villages have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health and Local Government and it is to be hoped that on the grounds of health, the most needful cases will not be long delayed.

Existing tanks are inadequate for the proper treatment of Water Closet drainage and each year sees additional W.C's and bathrooms being added.

The demand for improved Sanitary Accommodation and the abolition of the foul privy middens calls for the earliest provision of treatment works to meet the requirements of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

Public Cleansing.

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household refuse including the emptying of cesspools over the whole of their Area

The work is carried out by direct labour, 11 men being regularly employed.

The Vehicles used are :

- 2 — 10 cube yard Austin Refuse Collectors
- 1 — 10 cube yard Karrier Refuse Collector

Also a further Karrier is kept in reserve against break-down and for general use. A driver and 2 loaders operate each vehicle.

For the emptying of cesspools and tanks a Dennis Cesspool Emptier is operated by a driver and one man. This vehicle was purchased in 1947 to replace the use of Sanitary Carts and the difficulty of obtaining suitable team labour, also to speed up the work and so keep down costs besides carrying out this unwholesome work in a more hygienic manner.

This vehicle is also used in emptying closet pails, being fitted with a special night soil attachment. It has done some useful work since its purchase, and replacements are now becoming due.

The number of pails in Thirsk and Sowerby total about 600 and are cleared in one day with the use of this vehicle and 5 men, whereas when horse drawn Sanitary Carts were used, at least 3 days were required for the same work. The whole of the area is covered each week for the emptying of closet pails and dustbins.

Privy middens and other fixed receptacles are cleared each month in the main part, but collections from isolated premises are made at more infrequent periods to avoid the heavy costs of such special collections.

The collected refuse is disposed of by tipping and during the year we commenced using a disused Sand-pit some $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the North of Thirsk, besides the old quarry on the South side, but the latter had to be temporarily discontinued as it got on fire and became dangerous for our vehicles to use.

With the discontinuance of general tip salvage and to cut down costs a regular tip man was dispensed with, and occasional labour only employed to keep the tips tidy and free from nuisance.

In addition to household scavenging, waste paper and general refuse is removed from the shops in Thirsk and Sowerby. The Market Place is cleaned up after the Monday weekly market, and is swept and paper picked up on the Sunday morning.

APPROX. NUMBER AND KINDS OF RECEPTACLES TO BE
EMPTIED IN EACH PARISH.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Bins</i>	<i>Middens</i>	<i>Pails</i>
Ainderby Quernhow	13	4	12
Bagby ...	41	29	7
Balk	10	6	4
Birdforth ..	2	7	0

Boltby	...	8	44	3
Carlton Miniott		90	70	18
Catton	...	4	17	7
Cowesby	...	13	10	8
Dalton	...	67	40	29
Ellenthorpe	...	12	5	7
Eldmire-with-Crakehill		7	3	2
Fawdington	...	1	3	0
Felixkirk	...	9	13	5
Holme	...	6	10	3
Hood Grange	...	0	1	0
Howe	...	10	2	10
Humberton	...	12	2	11
Hutton Sessay	...	9	14	6
Kepwick	...	24	11	10
Kilburn	...	33	45	13
Kirby Hill	...	24	13	4
Kirby Knowle	...	13	10	8
Kirby Wiske	...	20	30	27
Knayton	...	39	43	18
Langthorpe	...	106	28	18
Maunby	...	18	27	10
Milby	...	17	8	8
Newby Wiske	...	40	15	29
Newsham	...	19	18	7
Norton-le-Clay	...	12	10	12
North Kilvington		3	7	0
Pickhill	...	37	47	16
Sandhutton	...	22	41	15
Sessay	...	30	39	21
Sinderby	...	15	18	12
Skipton Bridge	...	15	22	13
South Kilvington	...	28	42	20
South Otterington		41	55	26
Sowerby	...	763	51	208
Sutton	...	39	47	16
Thirkleby	...	27	32	10
Thirlby	...	4	20	3
Thirsk	...	807	61	384
Thornbrough	...	1	2	0
Thornton Bridge	...	1	11	1

Thornton-le-Moor	65	23	10
Thornton-le-Street	24	11	9
Topcliffe ...	63	68	15
Upsall ...	11	14	12
Topcliffe Aerodrome	300	0	0

Total Mileage carried out during the year on Refuse Collection and Disposal : 42,475 miles.

Public Conveniences.

The Council maintain underground public conveniences for both sexes. These are situated in the Market Place and are now kept open all hours. Part-time cleaners are employed for their maintenance in a hygienic condition.

These premises are extensively used by many bus parties and other road users and visitors passing through the town both day and night. More extensive conveniences are to be desired, provided with facilities for hand washing and the employment of full time Caretakers for continuous supervision to prevent damage to the premises and fittings.

Salvage.

The collection of waste paper was continued during the year, but with the increased value of the paper, Scouts and other Organisations commenced collections to assist their respective funds. During the year a total weight of 27 tons 3¼ cwts. was sold to the Thames Board Mills under contract and realised a sum of £365 7s. 6d.

Rodent Control.

Your operator (Mr. Fox) carried out the following work during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspections	2,226
Re-visits	708
Infestations found	127

A total weight of 2,228 oz. of poison bait was laid and in accordance with the poison taken this gives an estimated kill of rats of approx. 2,729.

The poisons used during the year were Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide, Antu and Arsenious Oxide.

As in previous years no claim was made against the Council of any animal or poultry being poisoned, showing that every precaution is taken by your Operator in the laying of poison bait.

The Sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby had maintenance treatments during the year and no influx of rats was apparent from the number of baits taken, but Sewer outfalls and the river banks are frequently inspected and all steps immediately taken to remedy any infestation found.

The Refuse tips are regularly inspected and treated, so as to prevent nuisance to adjacent farms and corn stacks. In agricultural districts, rat colonies are bred in field banks and ditches and it has been noted how they are attracted to refuse tips, hence the need for their regular treatment.

Much useful work has been done in clearing infestations from vermin infested Shops, Small-holders and Farm premises and appropriate charges made for the services rendered as required under the Act.

General Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections under Public Health	674
Inspections under Food	98
Inspections under Housing	907
Total Inspections	1679
Re-inspections	148
Informal Notices	84
Statutory Notices	9 (Water Supplies)

Public Health.

LICENSED PREMISES. - During the year the Sanitary Accommodation to four Public Houses was modernised, including improvements to Licencees living accommodation, in two cases.

Most of the Hotels in Thirsk and Sowerby have now been brought up to date and the few outstanding are under consideration.

Those in the rural area are kept under review and Sanitary improvements made as conditions permit and especially where Catering Licences are under consideration.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.—There is no general licensed Camping Ground in Thirsk and Sowerby. Caravans occupied in the area are chiefly used at week-ends during the Summer months.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.—It was found necessary during the year to employ the services of the Yorkshire Fumigation Co. to fumigate a block of four Council Houses, one of which was bug infested.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS to Houses and other Premises. During the year 19 fixed baths were provided, also 58 water closets.

Privy Middens abolished	22
Pail Closets abolished	25

Food.

CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS.—During the year the Clean Food Byelaws were adopted by the Council. Leaflets giving the chief provisions were sent to all food shops and food preparing premises and were also handed to Food Stall Holders at the Weekly Market. No Statutory action was taken under these byelaws.

FRIED FISH AND CHIP PREMISES.

Number on Register 7.

These premises are kept clean and satisfactory.

ICE CREAM PREMISES.

Number on Register 19.

In only one case is Ice Cream manufactured on the premises, the "Hot-Mix" Method being used.

The other registrations are for the sale of Ice Cream in pre-packed containers. No complaint was made during the year as to the cleanliness and wholesomeness of this food.

MILK.—The Council now only control those persons who distribute milk by retail sale and who are not producers of milk.

Four persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and include three for the sale of a Designated Milk. The milk is retailed in bottles.

MEAT.—The slaughtering of animals for food is carried out at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Northallerton, and the meat conveyed by motor lorry to Thirsk and the District for distribution to the butchers.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS.—There are 8 Butchers' Shops in Thirsk and 5 in the area.

CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND FOOD SHOPS GENERALLY.—These are kept under supervision so far as possible and informal action taken where required for compliance with the Clean Food Byelaws.

UN SOUND FOOD.—34 Certificates were issued during the year, chiefly in respect of tinned foods unfit for food.

Housing.

Control of Civil Building.

HOUSES ERECTED UNDER PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.—The restrictions on the issue of licences for building private houses were still in force in 1951.

There was a long waiting list from applicants desiring to build houses for their own occupation and the Council decided to issue four licences to the most needful cases.

REPAIRS AND CONVERSIONS (OTHER THAN NEW HOUSES). 42 Licences were issued by the Council during the year for works carried out to existing houses and totalled an expenditure of £13,755.

This amount included for two conversions of disused Army Huts to form units of accommodation.

COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME.—The Council's 1950 programme for the provision of houses in the rural parts of the area was concluded during the year 1951 with the completion of houses as follows :

<i>Village</i>	<i>No. and Type.</i>
Carlton Miniott	6 — 3 bedrooms
	2 — 4 bedrooms
Thirkleby	3 — 3 bedrooms
	1 — 4 bedrooms
Ainderby Quernhow	2 — 3 bedrooms

As the need for houses in the town area still remained acute the Council opened up new sites in the parishes of Thirsk and Sowerby.

The Sowerby site, adjoining the King's Gardens estate, was laid out for 28 houses, of which 11 were commenced in 1951 as part of that year's allocation.

Building was also commenced on the Thirsk site, which is referred to for the present as Sutton Road No. 2 Site. The lay-out of this site is such as to open up the land to the North and East for further development, and following its policy of securing sites in advance, the Council proceeded for the acquisition of a field immediately adjoining the site in hand with a view to erecting a further 70 houses thereon.

All the houses under erection during the year were of 'traditional' construction, but the new houses commenced during the year differed from the Council's other post-war houses in that the familiar flat roofed outbuildings were omitted and the fuel stores and wash-houses included within the containing walls of the houses.

A block of six houses was designed for the Sowerby site, being the largest number of houses in one block on any estate so far, and in keeping with Ministry suggestions on economical use of land.

The estimated need for houses at the beginning of the year was 277; this allowed for the replacement of 81 temporary converted hut dwellings, providing homes for 152 persons 'living in rooms' and re-housing 44 overcrowding cases.

The condition of the converted hut dwellings caused the Council grave concern, particularly those on the Stoneybrough site which was brought into use in 1947 for an anticipated period of three years. In view of the impracticability of demolishing the huts the Council decided to carry out a general weather proofing of roofs with a view to the dwellings remaining reasonably dry over the winter.

Action under the Housing Acts.

Housing Act, 1936.

Owing to the housing shortage the Council was unable to carry out 'Slum Clearance' or large scale housing improvement, and confined action to cases of individual unfit houses. Such action being of a non-statutory nature with the exception of a dwelling house at South Kilvington which was closed under the powers conferred on the Council by Section 12.

Housing Act, 1949.

One application for an Improvement Grant under this Act was made during the year, and this was still under consideration at the the year end. The house concerned being owner-occupied.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

